

Appl. No. 10/017,785
Amdt. dated April 12, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the Office Action dated January 12, 2006, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 1-5, 7, 14-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by O'Conner (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0056125, hereinafter "O'Conner"); and 2) rejected claims 6, 8-13, 19 and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious over O'Conner. Applicants respectfully submit that each of the claims is allowable over O'Conner.

The Examiner used the O'Conner reference to reject all pending claims. The effective filing date of the instant application is December 13, 2001. The filing date of O'Conner is September 19, 2001, which is earlier than Applicants' filing date. Applicants submit herewith affidavits under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 by which Applicants swear behind the O'Conner reference. Accordingly, O'Conner does not constitute prior art to claims 1-25 of the instant application. None of the other references satisfies the deficiencies of O'Conner. At least for this reason, claims 1-25 are placed in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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